

We Claim:

1. A data ring, comprising:

at least two disconnectable nodes adapted to connect to appliances and communicate with one another, and having a device for fault handling;

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving said nodes;
and

an additional node connected to said monitoring apparatus and allowing a fault state to be produced deliberately in said disconnectable nodes.

2. The data ring according to claim 1, wherein serial data traffic is carried using a protocol including synchronization signals.

3. The data ring according to claim 2, wherein a configuration of said additional node corresponds to a configuration of said disconnectable nodes; and

a circuit configuration producing a signal not complying with said protocol and connected as said appliance.

4. The data ring according to claim 1, wherein the data ring is a fiber channel data ring.

5. The data ring according to claim 3, wherein said additional node interferes with transmission of the synchronization signals to initiate a synchronization fault in said disconnectable nodes.

6. The data ring according to claim 5, wherein said nodes reinitialize upon a data ring fault.

7. The data ring according to claim 5, wherein said nodes reinitialize upon the synchronization fault.

8. The data ring according to claim 6, wherein said monitoring device holds said disconnectable nodes in the data ring during the production of the data ring fault in said disconnectable nodes.

9. A method for operating a data ring, which comprises:

providing a data ring having:

at least two disconnectable nodes adapted to connect to appliances and communication with one another, and

a monitoring device for monitoring and driving the nodes,
and

an additional node driveable by the monitoring device and
producing a fault state deliberately in the
disconnectable nodes;

connecting the additional node by the monitoring apparatus
after one of the nodes has been one of disconnected and
connected;

producing a fault state in the disconnectable nodes while
holding the disconnectable nodes in the data ring; and

removing the originally faulty node from the data ring.